

State Arts Collection



Each art object on display at the Chase Home is accompanied by a photograph and a biography of the artist, providing a fascinating view of Utah's multi-faceted culture.

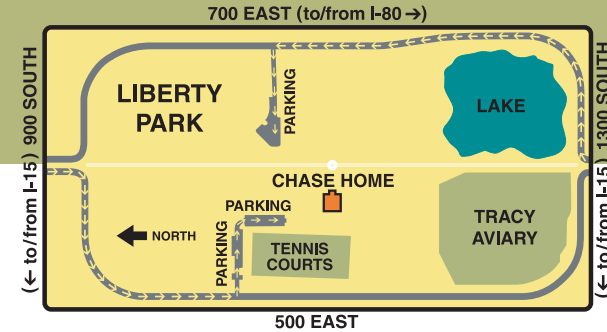
In 1899, Utah's state legislature established the first state arts agency in the country and mandated the purchase of art for a permanent State Collection. Since the 1976 founding of the *Utah Arts Council's Folk Arts Program*, that Collection has grown to include a variety of traditional art such as Navajo baskets, Ute and Shoshone beadwork, whittling and woodcarving, hand-made rugs, saddles, braided rawhide and hitched horsehair cowboy gear, Polynesian crafts, and Japanese paper arts.

The Chase Home Museum became the permanent home of the **State Folk Arts Collection** in 1987 and since then over 200,000 visitors have experienced its free programs. In addition to exhibits and concerts, the Chase Home contains a large repository of recordings and photographs that document Utah's traditional culture.

Though some pieces in the Collection are historic in style, all objects are contemporary works made by living Utah folk artists. New works, representing the finest art from the state's various cultural communities, are continually being acquired.



Information



Hours: Open mid April through mid October

Spring and Fall

Saturday and Sunday
12 noon – 5 pm

Summer

Monday through Thursday
12 noon – 5 pm
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
2 pm – 7 pm

Free Admission

Call 533-5760 for group tours.

voice: 801-533-5760

fax: 801-533-4202

email: cedison@utah.gov

web: www.folkartsmuseum.org

Folk Arts Program

Utah Arts Council

617 E. South Temple

Salt Lake City, UT 84102

The Utah Arts Council works to make the arts available to everyone, regardless of special needs or cultural differences, and encourages all who participate in our programs to do the same.



CHASE HOME

Museum of Utah Folk Arts

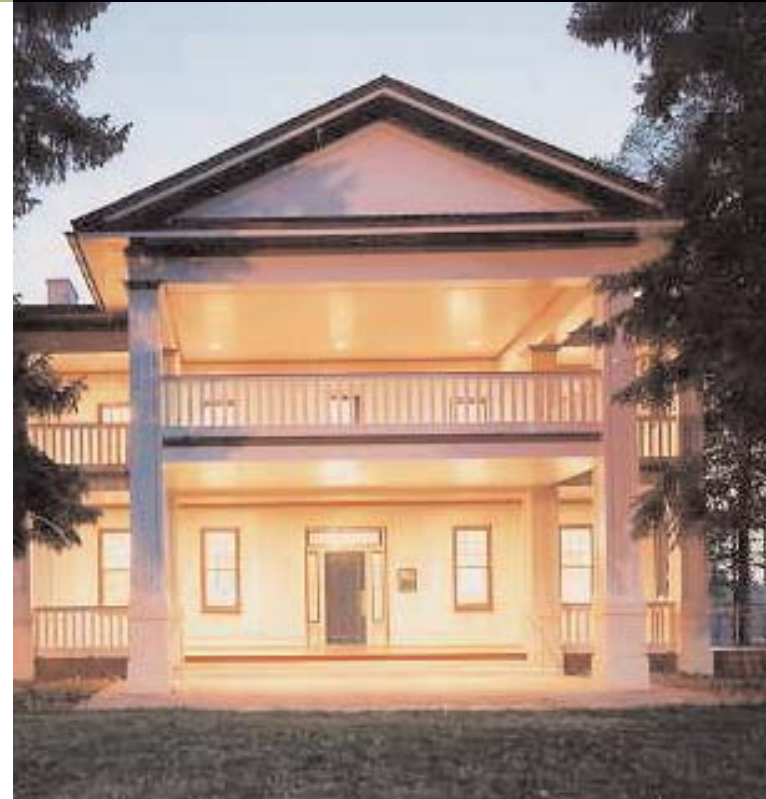
Copyright © Utah Arts Council 2002. All rights reserved.

This brochure was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Graphic Design by Trent Alvey and Associates

Pow-wow dancer, Jimmy Reese, Jr.; Tibetan rug, K. Sok-Chokore; spurs, D. Lytle & J. Mower; ceremonial basket, L. Mike; round dance basket, M.H. Black; moccasins, L. Harrelson; Navajo rug, M. Jim; Japanese calligraphy, M. Hayashi; Lone Star quilt, R. Handy; saddle tree, K. Gertsch; horsehair & leather tack, C. Christensen; weather-vane, T.& F. Parker; braided rug, G. Warner; duck, K. Lind. All art photos by Herridge & Assoc.

Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts



The Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts is the only state museum of its kind in the country. It has become the place where traditional artists from Utah's ethnic, native, occupational and rural communities share their craft, music and dance with their own communities, their fellow Utahns, and with visitors from around the world.

UTAH *arts* COUNCIL



History of the Chase Home



During the summer old-time musicians, cowboy poets and ethnic dancers take center stage at the museum's annual free concert series, Mondays in the Park.

In 1847, soon after the arrival of the first pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley, Isaac Chase built a sawmill and a one-room shanty on Emigration Creek. A few years later Mormon leader Brigham Young, who owned neighboring land, joined with Chase and they built a flourmill and a two-story adobe house in the center of a 110-acre pioneer farm. That farm became Liberty Park and today both structures — the Brigham Young Mill and the Isaac Chase Home — still remain.

The Chase Home was built in the Greek Revival style that features a Central Hall floor plan with parlors on either side of a central hallway, bedrooms upstairs and a cross-wing kitchen projecting from the back. During pioneer times the parlor was a great place to find lively conversation and fine organ music in the afternoons while the kitchen was the site of many lively evenings when neighbors gathered to dance a Cotillion or a Scottish Reel to the sound of a local fiddler. Today the home is still alive with the art of everyday folks — from their handcrafts to their music and dance — and is still a place where people gather to share the joys of family and community through the beauty of each other's traditional arts.



Native Gallery



The **Native Gallery** contains art objects made by Utah's American Indian population who are members of resident, land-based tribes — the linguistically related Goshutes, Northern Utes, Paiutes, Shoshones and Ute Mountain Utes and the Athabaskan-speaking Navajos — as well as various tribal groups who have chosen Utah as their home.

Today's Native Americans perpetuate the traditional skills of their ancestors by using natural resources to create handmade objects that express their cultural identity. Some weave willow into ancient basket forms or into brightly-colored trays for modern-day ceremonies or for sale through the art market. Others transform willow, buckskin and beads into cradleboards to carry their infants. Many make clothing and jewelry from brain-tanned buckskin decorated with glass beads, porcupine quills, shells or sequins. And others transform wood and hides into the drums, courting flutes and rasps that are integral to community life and celebration.



Ethnic Gallery



The **Ethnic Gallery** features traditional art from many of Utah's national, ethnic, racial and immigrant communities – an immigration that began a century and a half ago when Mormon pioneers from the US, the British Isles and Scandinavia, joined Native American groups in what became Utah Territory. By the time of statehood in 1896, immigrants were coming from Southern Europe, Asia and the Middle East, and throughout the twentieth century waves of Hispanics, Polynesians, Southeast Asians and Eastern Europeans chose to make Utah their home.

Ethnic art objects, made for home use or for cultural, social or religious celebrations, reinforce ethnic heritage, religious belief and community identity. These artistic expressions survive even though traditional materials might not be available, because they symbolize and celebrate group membership and ethnic heritage. Japanese origami, Chinese paper cuts, Mexican paper flowers and piñatas, Polynesian quilts, Swedish weaving and objects made from clay, wood and fiber are among the variety of arts featured in the Ethnic Gallery.



Occupational Gallery

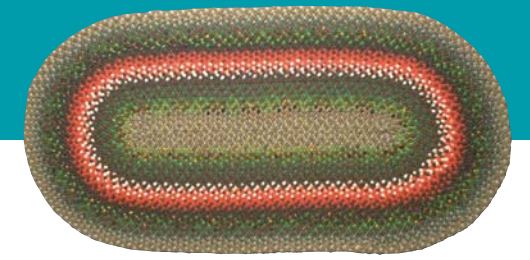


Some occupations, especially those that rely upon expertise and hand skills handed down from earlier generations, produce work that is considered art. Among the occupational folk arts still actively practiced today in Utah are stonecarving and stone masonry, blacksmithing, welding and forging and a variety of skills used in the production of cowboy and horse gear.

The **Occupational Gallery** features objects that are both functional and beautiful. There are reins, quirts (whips) and headstalls made from fine strands of beveled and braided rawhide. Horse tack and other gear is decorated with horsehair that has been twisted or hitched and sometimes dyed to create colorful designs. Hand built saddle trees (skeletons) and saddles whose leather skirts are decorated with stamped or carved designs are featured as well as spurs, tools and horseshoes, all made from hand-forged metal. There is even a medieval-style gargoyle, hand carved with chisel and mallet from local sandstone.



Rural Gallery



Even though the majority of Utah's population resides along the highly urbanized Wasatch Front, many Utahns have roots in rural communities. Their parents or grandparents were raised in a small town atmosphere and many of their basic values and skills are grounded in that rural heritage which prizes thrift, resourcefulness and creativity – qualities reflected in their traditional arts.

The **Rural Gallery** features the hand made objects, created from surplus or readily available materials, which often furnish or decorate Utah homes. A variety of braided, loomed, hooked and crocheted rugs made from leftover fabric, furniture made from local willow or pine, and objects whittled or carved from scraps of wood are displayed. So are crocheted or netted doilies used to decorate the arms or backs of chairs, skillfully whittled wooden puzzles and chains, and miniature sculptures, carved from wood or made from welded metal, that depict and commemorate everyday life a generation past. Created to add both comfort and beauty to everyday life, these arts reflect the need to productively use one's available time by recycling whatever is at hand and creatively transforming it into something both useful, and beautiful.

